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ANCIENT "HIDING NESTS"
Many English Houses Contain Secret Chambers.

CURIOUS DISCOVERIES

One Located in the Chimney Entered From the Hearthstone—Remarkable Escape of a Priest and Servant From a Band of Soldiers.

To the modern dweller in a flat or apartment the days of secret chambers seem very remote. It is not so many years, however, since hidden rooms were common to many houses of pretension. In England to-day there are many "priest holes" still preserved where in troublous times priests might take refuge.
 At Upton Court a curious place for concealment exists in one of the gables close to the ceiling. It is triangular in shape and is opened by a spring bolt that can be unlatched by pulling a string which runs through a tiny hole pierced in the framework of the door of the adjoining room. The door of the hiding place swings upon a pivot and externally is thickly covered with plaster, so as to resemble the rest of the wall, and it is so solid that when sounded there is no hollow sound from the cavity behind. Not far off, in an upper garret, is a hiding place in the thickness of the wall large enough to contain a man standing upright. Like the other, the door of entrance forms part of the plaster wall.

The narrow escapes of some of the persecuted priests would fill several volumes and for thrilling excitement that of Father Blount, at Scotney Castle, the old house of the Darrells, on the borders of Kent and Sussex, is a good example.

One Christmas night toward the close of Elizabeth's reign the castle was seized by a party of priest hunters, who locked up the members of the family securely before starting their operations. In the inner quadrangle of the mansion was a very remarkable and ingenious device. A large stone of solid wall could be pushed aside. Though of immense weight, it was so balanced and adjusted that it required only a slight pressure upon one side to effect an entrance to the hiding place within. Upon the approach of the enemy Father Blount and his servant hastened to the courtyard and entered the vault, but in their hurry to close the heavy door a small portion of one of their girdles got jammed in, so that a part of it was visible from the outside.

Fortunately for the fugitives, some one in the secret in passing the spot happened to catch sight of this tell-tale fragment and called gently to those within to endeavor to pull it in, which they eventually succeeded in doing. At this moment the pursuers were at work in another part of the castle, but, hearing the voice in the courtyard, rushed into it and commenced battering the walls, and at times upon the very door of the hiding place, which would have given away had not those within put their combined weight against it to keep it from yielding. It was a pitch dark night and rain was pelting down, so, after a time, discouraged at finding nothing and wet to the skin, the soldiers put off further search until the following morning.

Concerning Women.

Mrs. John Ranzau of Oregon has the distinction of being the only woman boy buyer in the world.

Mrs. Roosevelt's liking for orchids is well known and a few of her friends have pleased her greatly by presenting her with plants of those interesting flowers.

Miss Cannon, daughter of the speaker of the house, generally leaves her home by 9 o'clock in the morning and walks up to noon, shopping, marketing and visiting.

Mme. Melba possesses such a retentive memory that she can learn an entire opera in a week. She does much of her studying in bed, but the airs are mastered chiefly when she is walking or driving.

Queen Louise, wife of the new king of Denmark, is the wealthiest princess in Europe. She inherited \$15,000,000 from her maternal grandfather, Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, as well as the bulk of the fortune of her father, King Charles of Sweden and Norway. Her grandmother refused the hand of Napoleon and married M. Bernadotte, afterward Marshal Bernadotte and king of Sweden.

Italian Trains.

"The only bad thing about Italy is its train service," said a man who had been praising Italy. "I shall never forget a winter experience of mine on the railroad that runs along the Mediterranean from Ventimille to Genoa. I got on this train at Ventimille one morning, bound for San Remo. Off we started, snow-covered mountains to our left, orange groves and rose farms about us, the blue sea on our right, and after some minutes we stopped.
 "Is this Bordighera?" I said to the guard.
 "No, it's a cow!" he answered. "There's a cow on the line!"
 "Well, after a while the cow was driven off, and we got under way again. Some few miles were traversed in a leisurely way, and then—we stopped again.
 "Another cow?" I said to the guard, bitterly.
 "No," he replied. "The same one!"
 —Modern Society.

CLUBWOMEN TO THE RESCUE.

They Have Supplied a New Field to the Teacher of Elocution.

The occupation of the woman elocutionist has been altogether but for a new field for her labors that has recently come into existence.

The day of speaking pieces is past. Young ladies no longer rise in the drawing room to recite "Of all the operas that Verdi wrote," or to intone "Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorraine." Even at school commencements there is no place on the program for the old-fashioned recitations.

The elocutionists, therefore, might have been very hard up for work had there not arisen a new demand for their services. It was created by the women's clubs.

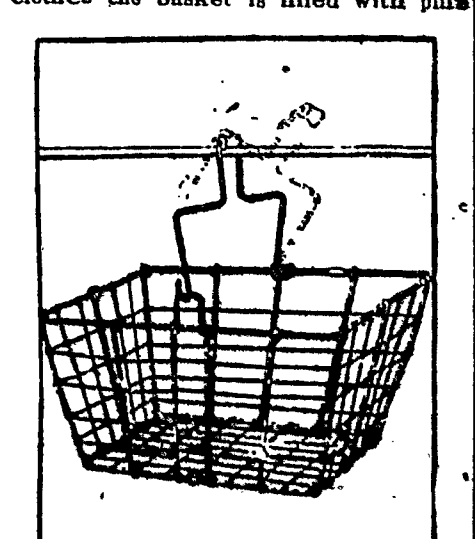
When women want to deliver a speech with great effectiveness they learn it by heart and the teacher of elocution does the rest. She teaches them how to deliver its periods in the most effective way and how to hurl its peroration at the bonnets of the assembly in manner certain to arouse enthusiasm.

Elocution was a declining art until the clubwomen came to its rescue.

Clothespin Basket.

Below is illustrated a simple clothespin basket, which can be suspended from and adjusted on the clothes line so as to facilitate the operation of hanging or detaching the clothes. The receptacle is made of wire, the handle being pivoted to one side of the basket. The handle has a peculiar shape. The upper portion is bent to form a guard on which is placed a roller. The free end of the handle forms a hook, which fits into the side of the basket.

When it is desired to hang out clothes the basket is filled with pins



Slides on Clothesline.

and placed on the line by releasing the handle and introducing the line between the sides of the guard, allowing the roller to engage the line and permit the basket to slide freely to any position. By releasing the hook the handle can be tilted, as indicated in dotted lines, and the basket removed and placed on another line.

Knew What He Wanted.

A cavalryman was one day engaged in laboriously "cleaning down" his rather raw-boned steed. An infantryman sauntered up, and, with his hands behind his back, leisurely inspected the operation.

"Halloo, John!" said the cavalryman. "Think you'd like to be in the cavalry?"
 "Oh, yes," said the infantryman; but only as a horse!"—Exchange.

Effect of Oil on the Skin.

Both with a greasy and with a moist condition of skin, considerations of diet and of the liquids that are taken, either with or between meals are of considerable importance. When excessive secretion of grease or oil is the trouble in question it should be borne in mind that all oleaginous foods, such as butter, fat, dripping and oil should be taken in extreme moderation. The condition of the skin, which is peculiar to the natives, and especially to the peasants of Italy is a good example of the effect of large quantities of oil taken with the food. Although in isolated cases their complexion deserves admiration, in the majority of cases they are by no means attractive, and are of a distinctly oily character. This is clearly due to the nature of their diet and the large quantity of olive oil which they are in the habit of taking. In hot climates a consumption of oil can be pushed to an extreme degree without any other consequences than possibly slightly greasy influence on the skin.

Avoid Buying Remnants.

It is seldom the part of wisdom to buy remnants of anything unless they are of a length to make some complete garment. Odds and ends of silk, lace, insertion and passementerie may, look irresistible on the counter in company with others of their kind, but what are they good for when you get them home? Shirt waists, fancy stocks, gumpes and so on may be concocted with success out of marked-down bits and shreds, but to buy odd lengths of things at random, hoping to employ them on new gowns or wraps, is generally foolish. Unless one buys with an exact use in mind one is apt to find one's self burdened with a lot of impossible things, and there is certainly no economy in that.

With a Pic.

Willie (looking up from his book)—Say, pa, the word "cap" sometimes means "with" doesn't it?
 Pa—What nonsense are you talking?
 Willie—Well, here's something in this book about a "gallant knight armed cap-a-pie."—Philadelphia Press.

STRANGE FINDS IN BOOKS.

Spectacles, Scissors, Letters, and Even Endorsed Checks Found.

City libraries are prolific producers of odd incidents. Articles of every kind and description are found in returned volumes. There is, for example, a well known book mark, endeared to its owner by some association, which has been found in returned books at least one hundred times. On two occasions endorsed checks were discovered between the leaves of works of fiction. The first check, for a large sum of money, was left by a young girl, who quickly realized her loss and came back breathless to find the check still in the book just where she had left it. The second check was in a book returned by a young man one evening just before the library closed. He was waiting haggard and wan on the doormat when the building was opened next morning, and stated that as the check belonged to his brother, who was ignorant of the loss, the night had known no sleep for him.

As may be imagined, letters are left in books by the wholesale. If they are sealed, addressed and lack a stamp it is supplied and they are sent on their way. But opened letters addressed to persons not known are kept a reasonable length of time and then destroyed. Spectacles and even scissors are frequently found, but usually claimed by the owner.

Occasionally when subscribers desire some book not in the library collection it is purchased and added to the list. Several years ago a subscriber asked for a little volume entitled, Monologues of the Dead. It was bought. Weeks later and after the gentleman's death by suicide the book was returned.

Watch Your Compass.

To convert a watch into a compass all one has to do is to count the number of hours from midnight, divide by two, and point the hour at the sun so that the shadow of a match or lead pencil falls directly across the center of the watch; twelve o'clock will be north, six south, nine west, and three east. Suppose it is nine in the morning; number of hours from midnight is nine; one-half is four and a half; point four-thirty at the sun so that the shadow of a match or lead pencil falls across the center of watch, and twelve is north, six south, three east, and nine west. Suppose it is six in the evening; number of hours from midnight eighteen; point nine at sun, and twelve is north, six south, three east, and nine west.

Labor Law in England.

An old labor law in England in force in 1783 contained the following six clauses: Any tailor who joined a union was to be sent to jail for two months. Tailors must work from six o'clock in the morning until eight at night. Wages were not to be higher than forty-eight cents a day. Each tailor was to be allowed three cents for breakfast. Any tailor who refused to work was to be imprisoned for not more than two months. If any employer paid higher wages he was to be fined \$25 and the workmen who took the increase were to be sent to jail for two months.

Process of Hardening Wood.

Considerable interest has been aroused by the announcement, as the result of a prolonged series of experiments, of a method of so treating timber as to secure even from moist wood a largely increased toughness and hardness. The treatment to which the timber is subjected is, roughly speaking, that of saturation at boiling point with a solution of sugar, the water being afterwards evaporated at a high temperature. The result is to leave the pores and interstices of the wood filled with solid matter, and the timber vulcanized, preserved and seasoned.

Strange Wedding Custom.

Among the Lolos of Western China it is customary for the bride on the wedding morn to perch herself on the highest branch of a large tree, while the older female members of her family cluster on the lower limbs, armed with sticks. When all are duly stationed the bridegroom clambers up the tree, assailed on all sides by blows, pushes and pinches from the dowagers, and it is not until he has broken through their force and captured the bride that he is allowed to carry her off.

Tradesmen in Japan.

Some of the Japanese tradesmen in the smaller towns of Nippon have a curious way of advertising their business. On their right forearm they tattoo figures—the shoemaker, a shoe, the woodcutter an ax, the butcher a cleaver. Underneath these emblems are such inscriptions as "do my work modestly and cheaply," and "I am as good at my trade as most of my fellows." When they are looking for work they bare their arms and walk about the streets.

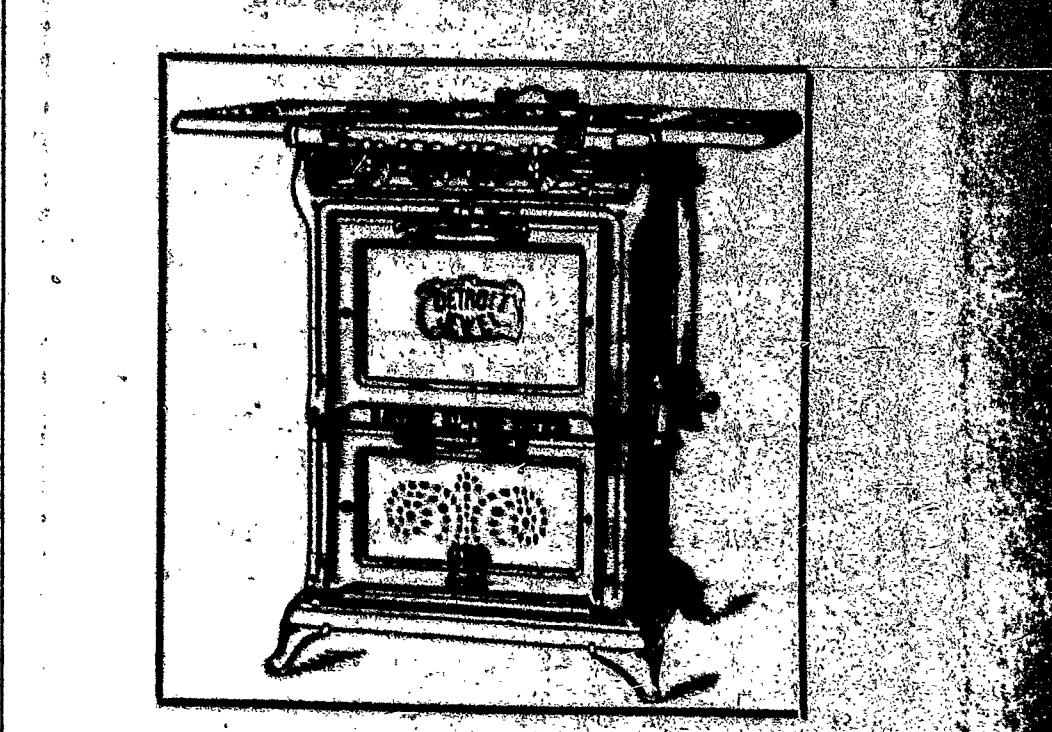
Handkerchiefs in the Army.

The Russian government has decreed that in future all soldiers of the Empire must use handkerchiefs—heretofore not one soldier out of a thousand has indulged in this luxury—and that all the handkerchiefs must contain pictures emblematic of a soldier's life, both in battle and in time of peace.

Giraffe Cannot Swim.

The giraffe is the only animal which is unable to swim. This is on account of its long neck. Every other animal can, if put to it, manage to keep afloat.

Buy Your Wife A Gas Range TO-DAY!



Do not allow your wife to suffer the inconvenience, delay and bother of a coal range in the house, when she can have one of our 1906 Gas Ranges that will give her every comfort. A quick fire when she wants it with no waste, no dust, no dirt. Economy—if for no other reason—should appeal to your sense of duty in this matter. Let us demonstrate the advantages of our 1906 Gas Ranges to-day.

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